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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

TOPIC Soviet Troops in the Weimar Area

DATE OF CONTENT 20 to 30 November 1950

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DATE PREPARED 15 January 1951

1. On 20 November 1950, a high-echelon headquarters was observed to be located in the Sofien Krankenhaus (hospital) on Humboldtstrasse, Weimar (M 51/J 57). (1)  
There were many officers.

2. The Panzer Kaserne on Jenaer Strasse quartered 150 to 200 troops, most of them were recruits. The troops allegedly belonged to the military post guard units. (2)

3. The Polizei Kaserne on Rosenthalstrasse was occupied by 50 to 80 men and houses a repair shop and a service station. The motor vehicles in the garages of this installation allegedly belonged to the kommandatura or the SCC. (3)

4. Between 21 and 30 November 1950, the Flak Kaserne on Ettersburgerstrasse still quartered a unit of about 1,200 troops, wearing red-bordered black epaulets, some with artillery insignia. Eight-man gun crews practiced with four 76.2-mm guns in the barracks yard on 22 November. Trucks entered the installation, hauling a load of straw. Sedan was parked in front of the barracks gate on 24 November. Truck occupied by about 30 soldiers, left the billeting area toward Weimar on 29 November. There was no training activity in the billeting area, except for intensive rifle and machine gun fire from the target range. Four 76.2-mm AA guns were still emplaced on Ettersberg. (3)

5. The eastern section of the Tannenberg Kaserne was occupied by only a unit of 100 to 120 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets. Occasionally, up to 800 troops of all branches of service were assembled in this billeting area and,

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following a ceremonial address by a general, shipped out to the east (3) and (4). The central section of the Tannenberg Kaserne was occupied by a unit of about 800 men, some of whom wore motor transport insignia. Numerous motor vehicles were observed in the garages of this section. Up to 50 motor vehicles were seen parked in the barracks yard. No drill or weapons training was observed there recently.

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The western section of the Tannenberg Kaserne was occupied by Volkspolizei units totaling about 700 police. (3)

6. The eastern section of the Luetzendorf Kaserne was occupied by artillery units totaling about 400 men, half of whom were recruits. Training activity was observed in the barracks yard. Four trucks

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entered the billeting area on 29 November, each carrying about 20 soldiers. The gun emplacement at the gasworks has been improved. Positions for two more guns and a crew shelter, 25x8 meters, have been constructed. The shelter was built into the ground up to about two thirds of its height and was covered with a layer of earth about one meter thick. Fifty to sixty soldiers were accommodated there on 28 November. Truck was parked at the emplacement on the same day. The central section of the Luetzendorf Kaserne quartered a unit of about 750 men, including about 200 recruits. Some of the troops observed wore signal insignia. Trucks carrying about 20 soldiers and equipment, entered the billeting area from the direction of Ettersburg (N 52/J 47) on 22 November.

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The western section of the Luetzendorf Kaserne still housed a hospital having about 30 medical personnel. Some rooms in this section were still occupied by officers, whereas all dependents had allegedly left the installations.

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7. The Mueller Kaserne still quartered a signal unit of about 400 men. Telephone equipment, but no radio equipment, was observed with the unit. Radio truck with a charging unit was occasionally parked in the billeting area. Sixty-five fully equipped soldiers, led by two officers, marched from the installation to the Sofien Krankenhaus on 23 November. Trucks were loaded with signal equipment in the barracks yard on the same day. Several small groups of soldiers were observed practicing the construction of overhead and surface telephone lines in Weibicht forest on 20 November.

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Staff car left the installation toward the city on 27 November, carrying one general and two other high-ranking officers.

8. The Flieger Kaserne, Nohra, quartered about 4,000 troops, primarily recruits. (3) Some soldiers observed wore tank and artillery insignia.

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Troops were training with six medium artillery pieces emplaced on the northern edge of the woods behind the barracks installation. Field and weapons training was observed in the billeting area.

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2. Radio truck [redacted] seen in a lane of the woods on Mittersberg on 21 November [redacted] apparently belonged to a radio station in operation. (5)

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[redacted] Comments.

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- (1) The headquarters in the Sofien Krankenhaus, which is the Hq Eighth Gds Army, has been periodically reported [redacted]

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- (2) [redacted] the former headquarters building of the German 1st Tank Div on Jenaer Strasse, which is also referred to as the Panzer Kaserne, has usually been occupied by 200 to 300 troops. [redacted]

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(3)

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(4)

It is [redacted] believed that a processing point for discharges of all Eighth Gds Army units is located in the eastern section of the Tannenberg Kaserne.

- (5) The report indicates that all units in Weimar were at their billets at the end of November 1950.

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